

Appl. No. : Unknown
Filed : Herewith

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At the top of page one following the title, please add the following sections:

Related U.S. Application Data

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/348,389, filed January 21, 2003, pending

Incorporation by Reference

This application hereby incorporates by reference U.S. Patent Application No. 10/348,389, filed January 21, 2003, in its entirety.

On page 7, please replace the paragraph beginning "In Fig. 7 the strip . . ." with the following rewritten paragraph:

In Fig. 7 the strip blank of Fig. 6 has been inverted so the felt layer 30 is disposed above the polyurethane layer 36. The heated platen 42 of Fig. 5 is shown applying heat through the felt layer of the second side edge 48 of the strip blank SB to the polyurethane layer 36 to form a compressed densified area 49 on such second side edge, while the strip blank is supported by base plate 42a 43a having a smooth upper surface. The application of heat to the polyurethane layer in this fashion serves to densify and therefore ~~therefor~~ compress and strengthen the second side edge of the polyurethane layer without creating a marking on the outer (lower) surface of the polyurethane 36. In Fig. 8 heat is shown being applied to the second side edge 48 of the polyurethane layer 36 by means of heated rollers 50. It should be understood that with respect to both Figs. 7 and 8 the temperature applied to the second side edge 48 of the polyurethane layer, to form the compressed densified area 49, will be higher than the temperature applied to the first side edge 44 of the polyurethane layer in Figs. 5 and 6 in forming the reinforcement side edge surface 46. By way of example, the temperature employed in the operation of Figs. 7 and 8 would be approximately 250-260 degrees centigrade, while the temperature being applied in the operation of Figs. 6 or 7 would be about 200 degrees centigrade, since the heat must be transferred to the polyurethane layer through the felt layer to form the compressed densified area 49.